

FIG. 1

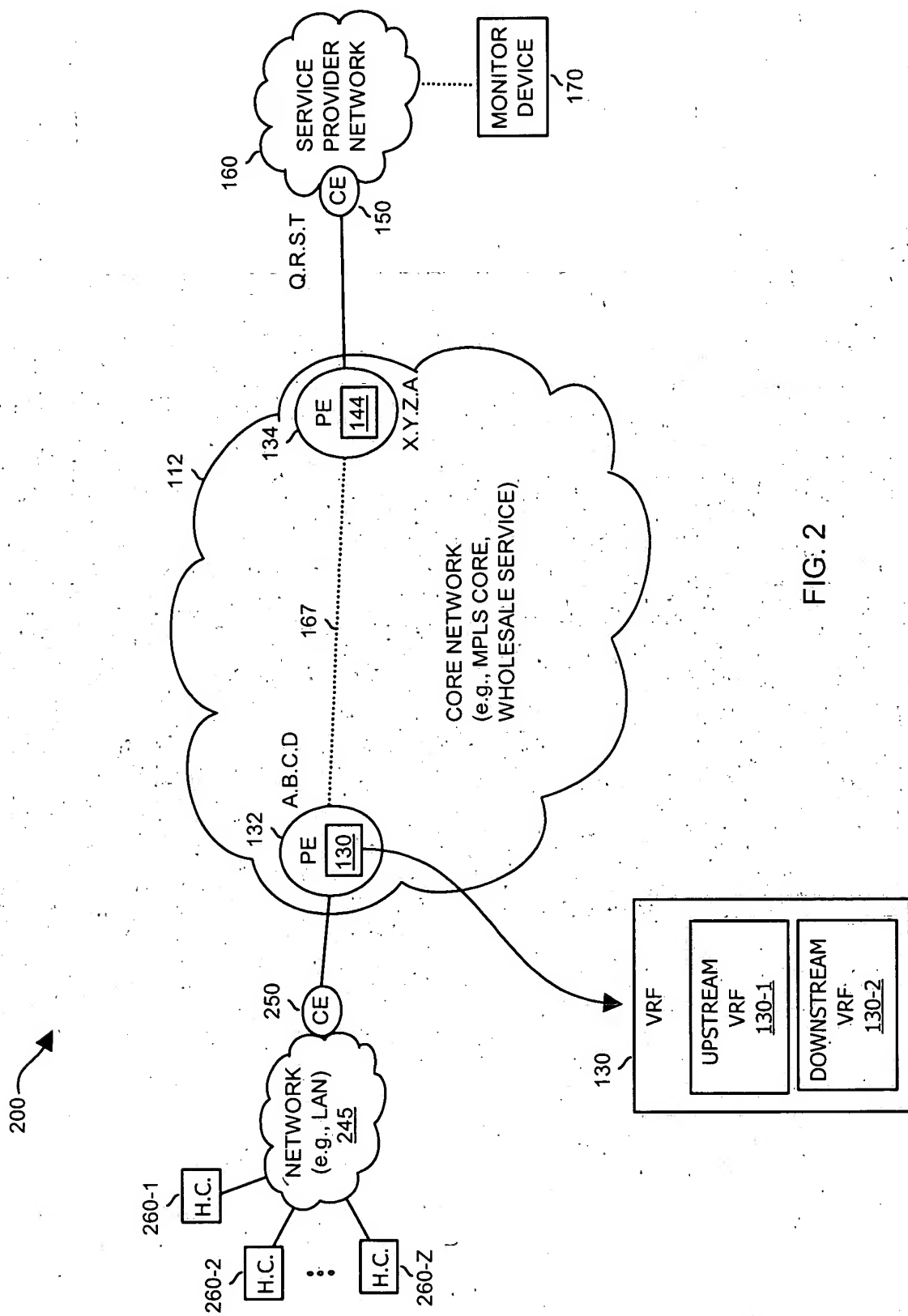


FIG. 2

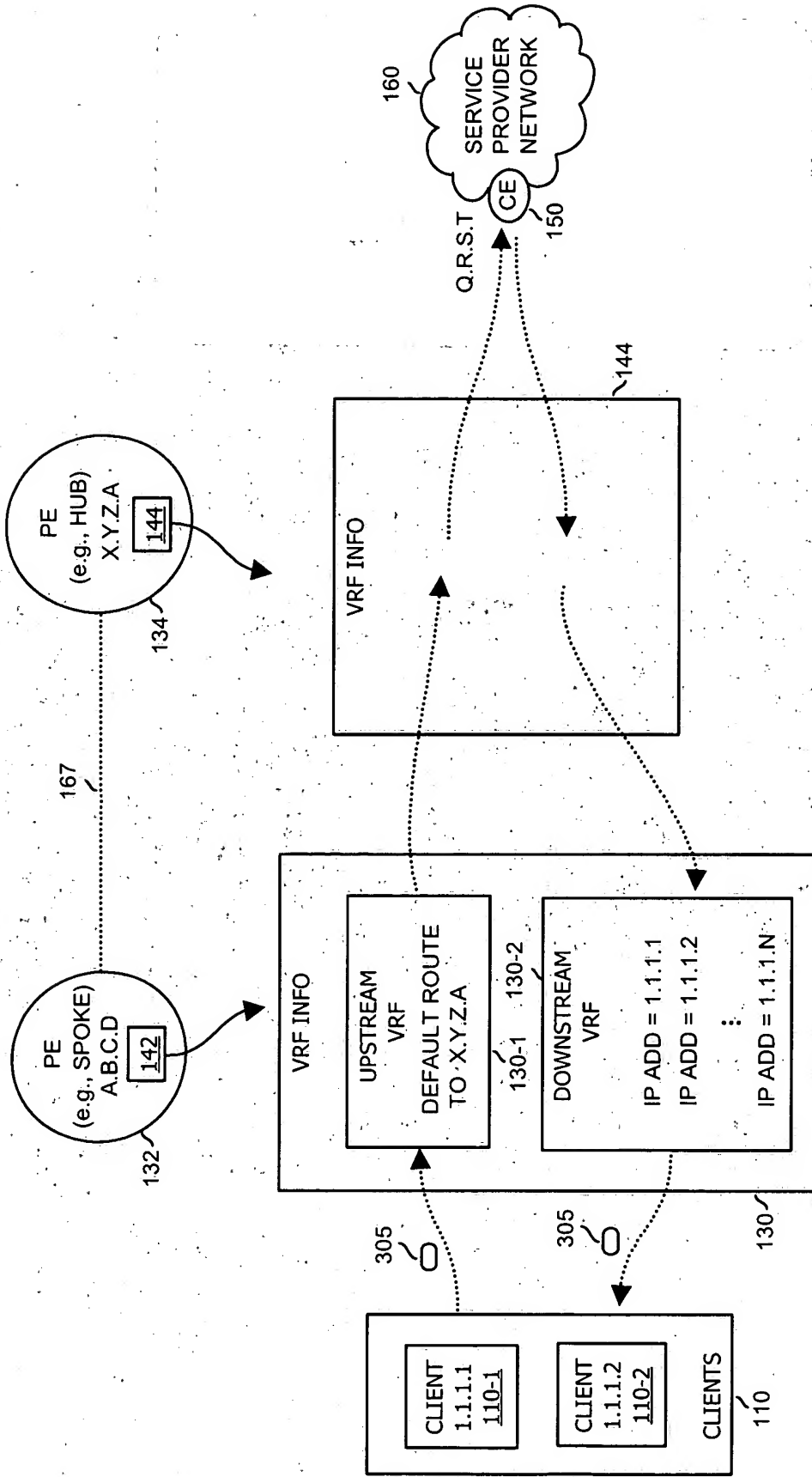


FIG. 3

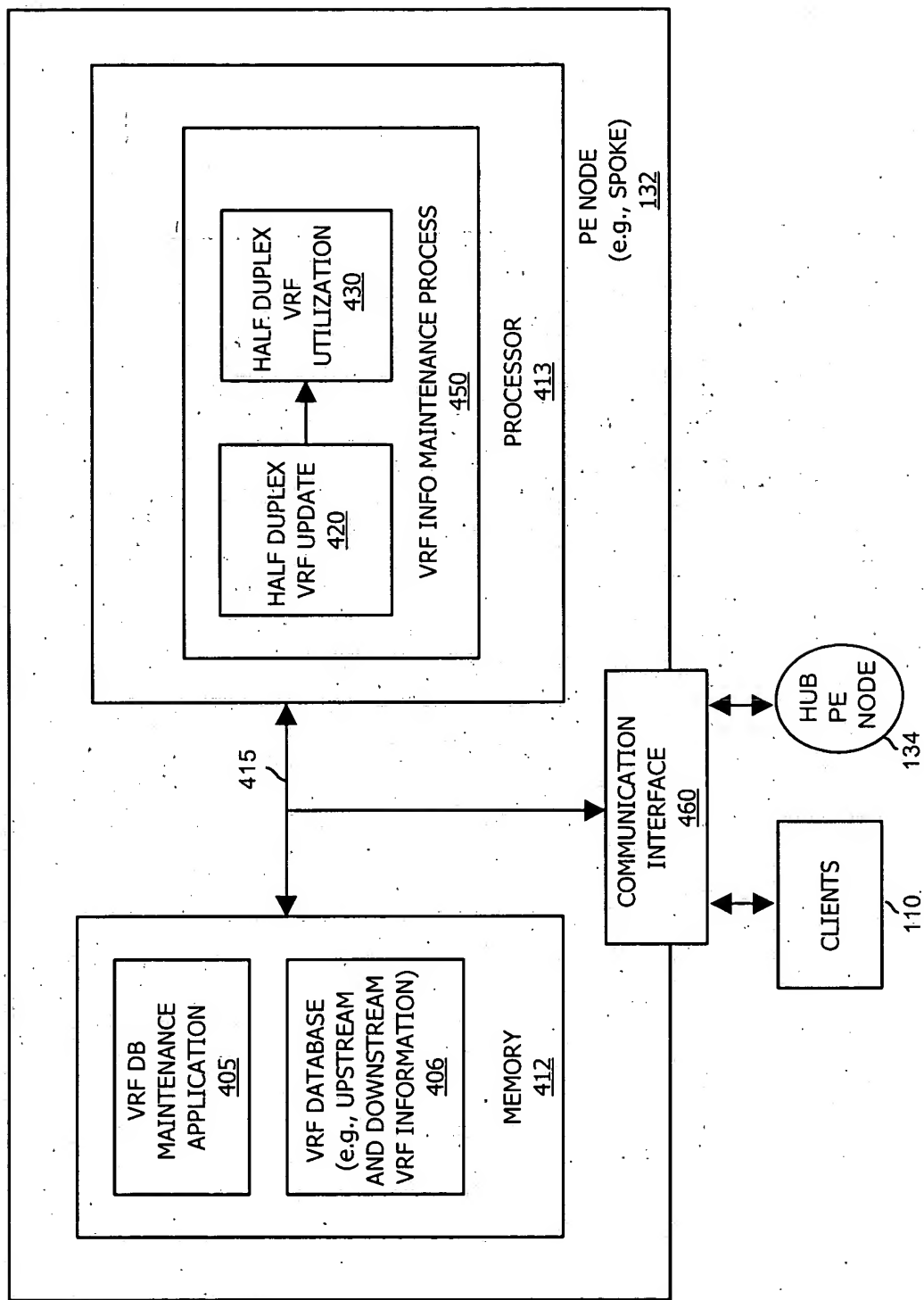


FIG. 4

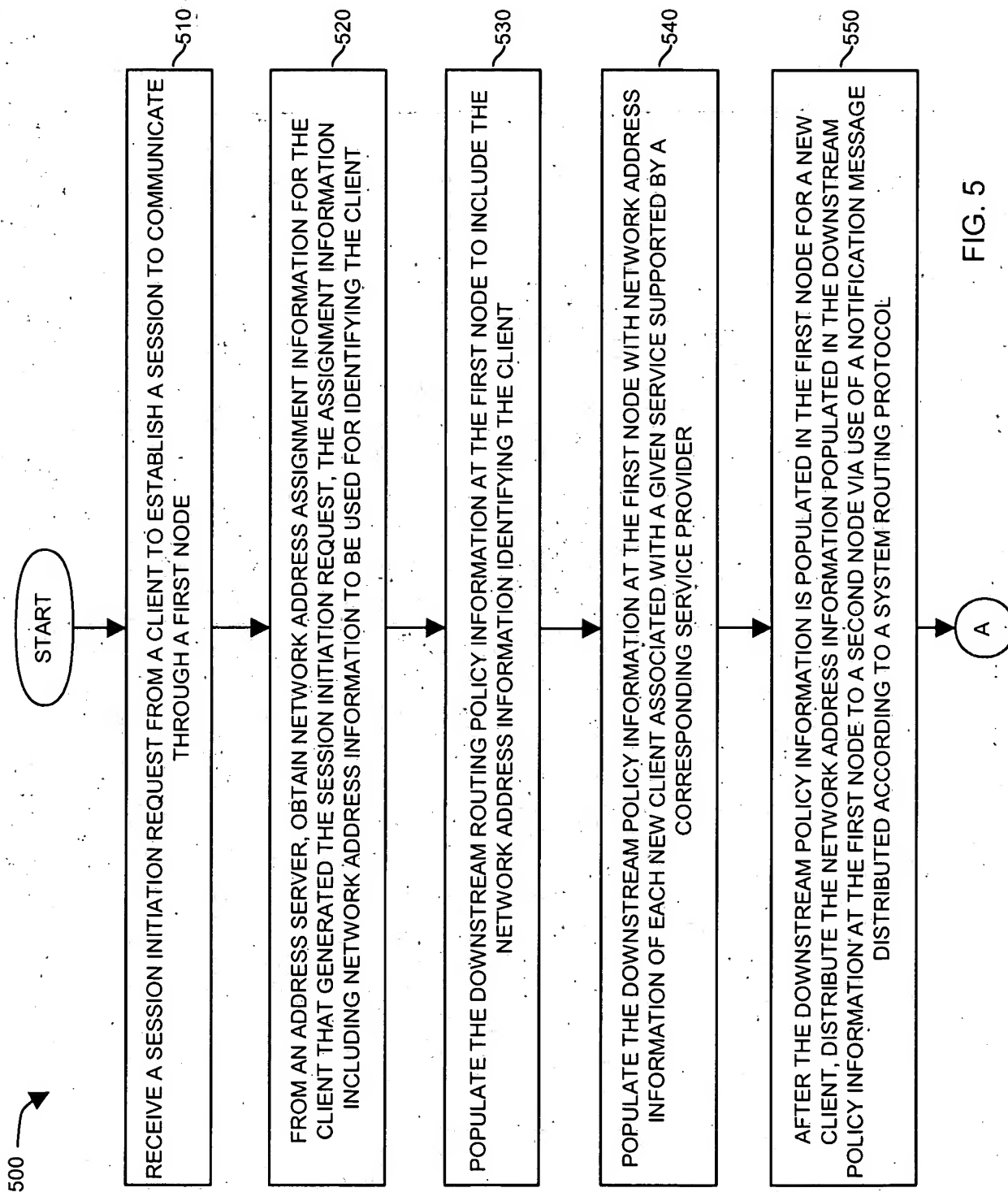


FIG. 5

500

A

MAINTAIN SEPARATE UPSTREAM ROUTING POLICY INFORMATION AND DOWNSTREAM POLICY INFORMATION AT THE FIRST NODE, THE UPSTREAM ROUTING POLICY INFORMATION BEING USED AT THE FIRST NODE TO IDENTIFY A SECOND NODE TO FORWARD UPSTREAM TRAFFIC RECEIVED FROM A FIRST CLIENT COMMUNICATING THROUGH THE FIRST NODE, THE DOWNSTREAM ROUTING POLICY INFORMATION BEING USED AT THE FIRST NODE TO FORWARD DOWNSTREAM TRAFFIC RECEIVED FROM A NODE TO THE FIRST CLIENT

FOR TRAFFIC TRANSMITTED BY THE FIRST CLIENT THROUGH THE FIRST NODE, PREVENTING USE OF THE DOWNSTREAM POLICY ROUTING INFORMATION TO ROUTE THE TRAFFIC AND INSTEAD UTILIZING THE UPSTREAM ROUTING POLICY INFORMATION IN THE FIRST NODE TO ENSURE FORWARDING OF THE TRAFFIC TRANSMITTED BY THE FIRST CLIENT FROM THE FIRST NODE TO THE SECOND NODE

RECEIVE A NETWORK MESSAGE FROM A CLIENT COUPLED TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH THE FIRST NODE, THE NETWORK MESSAGE INTENDED FOR RECEIPT BY ANOTHER CLIENT

UTILIZE THE UPSTREAM ROUTING POLICY INFORMATION IN THE FIRST NODE TO IDENTIFY A PATH ON WHICH TO FORWARD THE NETWORK MESSAGE

BASED ON USE OF THE UPSTREAM ROUTING POLICY INFORMATION AND DOWNSTREAM POLICY INFORMATION AT THE FIRST NODE, ESTABLISH A VPN (VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK) CONNECTION BETWEEN THE FIRST NODE AND THE SECOND NODE ON WHICH TO FORWARD TRAFFIC FROM THE FIRST CLIENT

B

FIG. 6

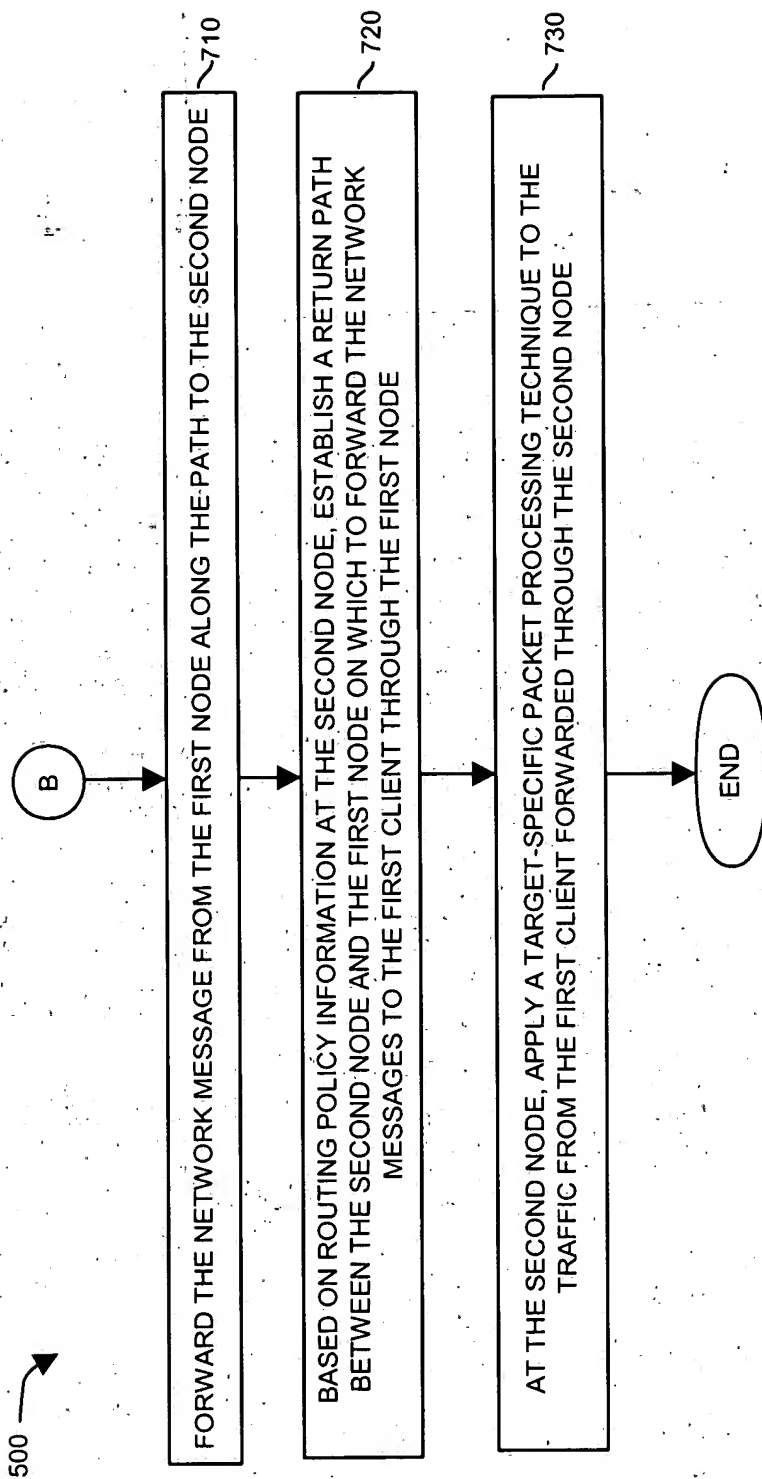


FIG. 7